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# Message Text

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61
ORIGIN SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /015 R

66615
DRAFTED BY S/S-O:DWOODALL
APPROVED BY S/S-O:W NEWLIN
---------- 061493
O 252317Z SEP 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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TOECO 48

FOL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FM MANILA SEPT 25 REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRN, RP
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: GOP "HOMCOMING" TRAVEL POLICY

REF: STATE 187558

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED HOMECOMING FARE PROBLEM
WITH TOURISM SECRETARY AND CAB CHAIRMAN ASPIRAS AND
WITH AMB ROMUALDEZ WHO VISITING MANILA BRIEFLY. ASPIRAS
APPEARED TO CONSIDER $425 FARE A CLOSED
MATTER SINCE PRESIDENT MARCOS IS PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO
IT, AND INDICATED GOP READY GO FORWARD WITH SUBSIDY
SCHEME FOR AMOUNT TRAVELLERS MUST PAY OVER $425.
ROMUALDEZ SAID HE HAD OPPOSED GOP APPROACH TO PROGRAM IN
FIRST INSTANCE AND FOLLOWING US CAB ACTION HAD RECOMMENDED
TO PRESIDENT A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD OPEN FARE TO US
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CARRIERS. HE CRITICIZED GOP HANDLING OF FARE PROPOSAL,

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AND SAID HE HOPES TO HAVE FURTHER WORD FROM PALACE
BEFORE LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON SEPT 28. END SUMMARY.

2. ECON/COMMERICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON SEC.
ASPIRAS SEPT 25 TO DISCUSS HOMECOMING FARE PROBLEM PER
REFTEL, LEAVING TALKING PAPER STATING USG AGENCIES ARE
KEENLY AWARE OF IMPORTANCE TO GOP OF HOMECOMING PROGRAM
AND ARE FULLY PREPARED TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH A
SPECIAL FARE CONCEPT CAN BE MADE CONFORMANT TO US
POLICIES. ASPIRAS INDICATED HE FEELS PRESIDENT MARCOS
COULD NOT BACK DOWN FROM PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED $425
FARE FOR FILIPINO NON-RESIDENTS AND FURNISHED TEXT
OF PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM (BELIEVED RELEASED AFTER
US CAB SEPT 17 RULING) DIRECTING GOP AGENCIES TO WORK
OUT WITH PAL A CREDIT OR SUBSIDY ARRANGEMENT THROUGH A
"HOMECOMING CERTIFICATE" SCHEME (TEXT REPORTED SEPTEL).
ACCORDING TO PANAM MANAGER, SUBSIDY SCHEME IS NOW IN
EFFECT FOR SALE OF PAL TICKETS IN US.

2. ASPIRAS SEVERELY CRITICIZED "INSINUATIONS" OF
US CARRIERS' COMPLAINTS (PRESUMABLY REFERENCE TO PANAM
DOCUMENT OF SEPT 4) WHICH ACCORDING TO ASPIRAS QUESTIONED
PRESIDENT'S RIGHT TO SEEK HOMECOMING FARE. HE DID NOT
EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A COMPROMISE ON A HIGHER
HOMECOMING FARE IN WHICH US CARRIERS WOULD PARTICIPATE,
BUT HE MADE CLEAR HE WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE
TO THAT END.

4. LATEST FIGURES, ACCORDING TO ASPIRAS, INDICATE
24,000 FILIPINOS HAD REGISTERED WITH PHIL CONSULATES
AND EMBASSIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN HOMECOMING PROGRAM.
HE SAID HE IS RECEIVING URGENT REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL OF
ADDITIONAL CHARTERS AND HE WOULD APPROVE "EVERY CHARTER"
APPLICATION IN ORDER MEET NEEDS OF HOMECOMING TRAVELERS.
HE SAID RATES AS LOW AS $325 ARE BEING CHARGED.

5. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH AMB ROMUALDEZ,
COUNSELOR FOUND MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE AND READINESS TO
EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF ADJUSTING PAL FILING TO MEET
PROBLEMS OF US CARRIERS AND US CAB. ROMUALDEZ
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SAID HE HAD PLACED RECOMMENDATION TO THIS EFFECT
BEFORE PRESIDENT AND HOPED TO HAVE WORD BY
SEPT 27, DAY BEFORE AMB LEAVES FOR US. COPY OF
TALKING PAPER LEFT WITH ROMUALDEZ WHO
SAID IT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT.
SULLIVAN

UNQUOTE

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RUSH

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# Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** n/a
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**Draft Date:** 25 SEP 1973
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**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** CIVAIR: GOP "HOMCOMING" TRAVEL POLICY
**TAGS:** ETRN, RP
**To:** NAIROBI
**Type:** TE
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